

LEMBECK AND BETZ EAGLE BREWERY,
~~SECOND BREW HOUSE~~
180-182 Ninth Street
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-113-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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LOCATION: 180-182 Ninth Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. USGS Jersey City, NJ Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.580960.4508840

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION: 1888; altered 1920

BUILDER: Unknown

PRESENT OWNER: City of Jersey City, New Jersey

PRESENT USE: Vacant and abandoned storage buildings

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Second Brew House is a representative example of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture associated with brewing.

PROJECT INFORMATION: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Second Brew House was recorded in October 1996 by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey, for the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency. The recordation was undertaken pursuant to the stipulations of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council Resolution No. 544-95, dated May 17, 1994, responding to the city of Jersey City's request to demolish the complex. Project personnel included Richard M. Casella, Senior Architectural Historian, and Rob Tucher, Senior Photographer.

DESCRIPTION

The Second Brew House, built in 1888 (HAER No. NJ-113-B), is a six-story brick industrial building with a flat roof, brick foundation with basement, and decorative Italianate detailing in the brickwork, especially around windows and door openings. The facade is divided vertically into three bays by brick pilasters and horizontally at each floor level by corbeled-brick belt courses. The decorative work wraps around the west side of the building, which faces a courtyard. The original paired window openings are all bricked in, with the exception of one window on each of floors 2-6 in the center bay, where wooden casement windows in rectangular openings were installed. The original window openings are defined by the deeply corbeled semicircular hoods which remain. The sixth floor and the fifth floor over the two west bays were added to the building when the original roof was removed during renovations in 1920.

The ground-floor windows and entrances have been almost completely altered. The arched opening of the original entrance and window located in the east bay have been bricked in, while the other window openings were converted to entrances and then later bricked in.

The floors and roof are carried by a combination of the load-bearing exterior brick walls and concrete-encased steel columns. Floors are concrete slabs over vaulted brick forms and flat reinforced-concrete slabs.

A concrete loading platform runs across the front of the building, extending out about 10 feet. A corrugated metal canopy extending over the platform is attached to the building at the second-floor level, hung with metal suspender rods and steel beams. The rear walls of the building have been partially demolished, exposing the steel frame of the building.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This building was built in 1888 as a new brewing house to expand the capacity of the plant. Originally, the building featured a mansard tower above the east bay, but this was removed in 1920, when two stories were added. In 1893, the building housed offices as well as equipment and machinery for the brewing process. Ale and porter were brewed on the upper floors and fed by gravity to storage tanks in the basement. A tunnel, now blocked off, ran under Ninth Street and connected this building to the stables on the south side of the street, which have since been demolished.

In 1920, with the imposition of Prohibition, the owners converted the plant to a cold storage facility. The wood-frame mansard roof of the building was removed, and two stories were added to the west section and one story was added to the east section. As with the other buildings along Ninth Street, a bracketed cornice at the second-floor level was removed, the metal awning

installed, and the concrete loading platform built. Windows were altered by infilling with brick, and additional ground-floor door openings were cut in or created from window openings. Cork insulation was applied to many of the interior walls and covered with a cement-based plaster. The building, along with the others in the complex, was operated as the New Jersey Refrigeration Company and then as National Cold Storage until some time in the 1960s or 1970s, and has remained vacant since. The city of Jersey City acquired the building in 1979 through tax foreclosure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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